



PAPAL EVENTS FULFILL FAMILY'S DREAM

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# FaithLife



POPE TWEET

Pope Francis @Pontifex

"A Christian who is too attached to riches has lost his way."

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 11, 2015

## Special Collection

### World Mission Sunday, Oct. 18

We are all united in a special way on World Mission Sunday. A collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be taken in all parishes of the Diocese of Erie on Oct. 18. Funds from this collection support 1,150 young mission dioceses in our world, reaching the poorest communities with a message of hope and healing, mercy and peace.

### Diocesan Appointments

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie, makes the following appointments:



**Father Daniel R. Hoffman**, judge in first instance in the Matrimonial Tribunal, effective Sept. 2, 2015, in addition to his appointment as pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church, Edinboro.

**Sister Sylvia Burnett, O.S.B.M.**, coordinator of the Office of Matrimonial Concerns and Tribunal, effective Aug. 27, 2015.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Saint Vincent Seminary honors Bishop Persico

LATROBE—Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe honored Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico as an Alumnus of Distinction at the annual Alumni Day Mass Sept. 29 in the Archabbey Basilica.

Father Edward Mazich, OSB, seminary rector, offered the homily at the Mass, with Bishop Persico serving as principal celebrant.

Bishop Persico is a 1975 alumnus of Saint Vincent Seminary. A native of Monessen, Bishop Persico attended the diocesan high school seminary at Saint Joseph Hall in Greensburg. He then earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1973 from Saint Pius X in Erlanger, Ky., before earning his master of divinity degree at Saint Vincent Seminary. In June 1980, he was assigned to study at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he received the licentiate degree in canon law in 1982.

He was ordained bishop of Erie on Oct. 1, 2012. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Regents of Saint Vincent Seminary.

### New postulant enters Benedictine community

HARBORCREEK—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie recently welcomed a new postulant to their monastic community at a ritual at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek.

Valerie Luckey, 27, was accompanied by Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB, vocation director. "I am very happy to walk with her into our monastery," Sister Marilyn said.

A graduate of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Valerie taught fourth grade in Philadelphia schools. After visiting the Erie Benedictines several times over the past two years, she decided to begin the process for entrance into the postulancy.

"Since first visiting Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in August 2013, I have come to know the spirit of the community and recognize that my individual journey toward God aligns with that spirit," she said. "I seek to root myself in the heart of God first and foremost through the prayer life of the community and sharing the Word of God together. The rhythm and centering of monastic prayer will strengthen my journey and focus my ministry."

Postulancy is the first phase of monastic formation.



Postulant Valerie Luckey with Benedictine Sister Marilyn Schauble, vocation director of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

# Cheers for Francis



Photo by Logan George

Hundreds of people from around the Diocese of Erie are pictured outside St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in downtown Philadelphia Sept. 26 as part of a pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families and papal Mass that drew more than 1 million people.

## Erie Diocese joins America in welcoming pope

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITH/LIFE and CINDY WOODEN | CNS

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Pope Francis speaks often about memory and motion, the importance of remembering where you came from and setting off without fear to share the Gospel.

That's what he did in the United States. He circled the Statue of Liberty in a helicopter and flew over Ellis Island not preparing to condemn the world's great superpower, but to reflect on its history and promise as a land that welcomes people, makes them part of the family and allows them to thrive.

The pope's proclamation of the Gospel in Washington, D.C., Sept. 22-27 focused on reinvigorating people's faith, hope, trust and commitment to loving God, serving others and living up to the founding ideals of the United States: equality, opportunity for all, religious liberty, and the sacred dignity of every creature on earth.

More than 300 people from all parts of the Diocese of Erie—including clergy, sisters, seminarians, Catholic high school and university students, and families—traveled to Washington and Philadelphia to hear Pope Francis' message.

Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman went by plane and train to both cities. Bishop Persico found the unprecedented crowds both exhilarating and surprising.

"You could see people for miles," Bishop Persico said of his view in Philadelphia from the bishops' bus to the World Meeting of Families festival stage and from the risers at the papal Mass Sept. 26.



Father Jason Feigh, left, campus minister, Cathedral Prep, Erie, and Father Ross Miceli, campus minister, Elk County Catholic, St. Marys, at events in Philadelphia.

27. "There was an ocean of people." Having earlier heard the pope's message in Washington, Bishop Persico added, "We have to allow the message to touch us. We have to live it, not just mouth it."

Six priests from the diocese also celebrated the papal Mass in Philadelphia, helping to distribute communion to the million-plus people gathered in and around the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The priests were: Fathers Jason Feigh, Ross Miceli, Jerry Prissaro, Scott Jabo and Rich Toohey, and Msgr. Richard Sullivan.

"This was the first Mass as a priest that I celebrated with a pope," said Father Miceli, campus minister at Elk County Catholic High School. "It was a great experience, especially with a pope who is renewing the church and vocations."



Contributed photo

Dawn Schaaf has all her cameras ready for Pope Francis as he passes on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

See more coverage and photos on pages 3 and 4.

## Synod: Church needs to support families

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a world filled with challenges to marriage and family life, the Catholic Church is called "to carry out her mission in fidelity, truth and love," Pope Francis said at the Mass opening the World Synod of Bishops on the family.

Formally opening the synod Oct. 4 with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the church must encourage families and defend faithful

love, the sacredness of every human life and "the unity and indissolubility" of marriage.

At the same time, he said, the church must carry out its mission with charity, not only "not pointing a finger in judgment of others," but also seeking out all who are lonely and in pain, caring for "hurting couples with the balm of acceptance and mercy."

The synod is scheduled to last until Oct. 25, discussing ways to strengthen the church's support of

families and its outreach to those struggling to live fully the Catholic ideals of marriage and family life. Marriage preparation, sexuality, procreation, communication, support for couples at risk of separation, accompaniment of divorced Catholics and possible ways to bring back the divorced and civilly remarried were all expected to be on the synod's agenda.

Pope Francis, synod members and tens of thousands of people had gathered in St. Peter's Square Oct.

around the country. Two busloads of adults and families from the diocese traveled to Philadelphia as part of a three-day pilgrimage. Another three buses took high school students and chaperones who stayed at a downtown Philadelphia fitness center. Students from Gannon University and Mercyhurst University of Erie attended the papal Mass on Sept. 27.

"It was kind of surreal seeing the pope because you see him on TV. But he's right there after you're standing for eight hours waiting by a tree," said Pete Buckowski, a senior at Northwestern High School and a parishioner of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion. "I wouldn't wait for eight hours for a concert or anything else."

Before the pope spoke, Italian families and an engaged couple shared their stories of finding love, overcoming obstacles and experiencing reconciliation and healing.

The formal prayer began with an invocation of the Holy Spirit on the pope and synod members. In his homily, Pope Francis asked people to pray that the synod would show the world "how the experience of marriage and family is rich and humanly fulfilling."

■ Visiting the imprisoned

PHILADELPHIA—Pope Francis blesses a prisoner as he visits the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia Sept. 27.



CNS photo

■ Pope appoints 18 couples to attend Synod of Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—More than 360 participants, including 18 married couples from around the world, are expected to attend October's Synod of Bishops on the family Oct. 4-25.

Pope Francis ensured that all the members of the synod's general council would be present at the October meeting by appointing U.S. Cardinals Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Timothy M. Dolan of New York as voting members. In addition, he named U.S. Archbishop

Blaise J. Cupich of Chicago; U.S. Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio; Canadian Cardinal Gerald C. Lacroix of Quebec; and New Zealand Cardinal John A. Dew of Wellington as members.

The ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops is focusing on "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World." It will draw up pastoral guidelines responding to previous discussions looking at the challenges facing today's families.

■ 'Francis' signs mural for Guinness Book of World Records

PHILADELPHIA—As confetti rained down and cheers filled the air on the final day of the World Meeting of Families Sept. 25, a family from Argentina applied brushstrokes to a mural depicting Pope Francis, pushing the number of contributors to the paint-by-numbers mural past 2,263 and into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Caitie Walker and Noel Zemorain and their four children had traveled 13,000 miles through 13 countries to attend the World Meeting of Families, joined hundreds of people at the gathering in helping to paint the mural that will eventually be permanently displayed at

the future home of St. Malachy School in Philadelphia. Carlos Martinez, director of records for Guinness World Records, certified the accomplishment.

Cesar Viveros, the Philadelphia muralist who designed the artwork, told the *Catholic Review*, newspaper of the Baltimore Archdiocese, that he was overwhelmed and surprised to see so many people contribute.

The art was commissioned by the World Meeting of Families and the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program. "The Sacred Now: Faith and Family in the 21st Century" was crafted from 153 panels measuring 5 feet by 5 feet.



CNS photo

Muralist Cesar Viveros, far left, stands by as Pope Francis affixes his signature to the final piece of a mural that set a world record for the largest number of contributors.

The pope signed "Francis" to the piece Sept. 26 during the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

**Pope's energy inspires**



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

The Jesuits have a spiritual practice that has seekers of God place themselves in a Bible passage, i.e., the vine and the branches, the loaves and fish, or the wedding feast at Cana, to name a few. This exercise helps one meditate on his or her intimate relationship with Christ.

I was recently plunked down in the middle of such a scene in real life. But instead of Jesus and the 5,000 along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, it featured Pope Francis and more than 1 million people in Philadelphia.

At the end of September, more than 300 pilgrims from the Diocese of Erie traveled to Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, trying to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis on his first papal visit to the United States. Since he was elected to lead the Catholic Church in 2013, Pope Francis has attracted throngs of people, much like those who followed Jesus more than 2,000 years ago.

Busloads of families, adults and teenagers from the diocese traveled at the end of September to the World Meeting of Families and the papal Mass in Philadelphia. Many others drove separately to Philadelphia and Washington, among them Bud Stark and his wife, Beta, and three of their children. Beta grew up in Philly and received Communion from Pope John Paul II when he offered Mass there in 1979.

Erie Benedictine Sisters Katherine Horan, Ann Hoffman, Dorothy Stoner and Christine Kozin had a great view of the altar at the papal Mass Sept. 27, as did groups from Mercyhurst University and Gannon University. And Sister Suzanne Thibault, CA, of Frenchville, attended the canonization Mass in Washington.

It was a real pleasure to meet up with Jennifer Kurzew, formerly of Erie, who lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Tim, and their three children. They rode

their bikes through Philadelphia's streets, along with their visiting niece, Kirsten Kneidinger, a student at St. George School, Erie.

Joe Flecher, executive director of the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, waited in line for six hours to hear the pope's message in Washington. His center ministers to the economic, emotional and spiritual needs of the Mercer County community.

"I'm glad that he talked about the need to support the poor because that's near and dear to my heart," Flecher said after the Mass.

Two natives of the diocese also presented talks at the weeklong World Meeting of Families held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. Bob Jazwinski, president of JFS Wealth Advisors, Hermitage, discussed "The 1-2-3s of Healthy Finances" before about 300 people. And Dr. Janet Smith of Warren addressed the topics of elder care and *Humanae Vitae*.

A national and international lecturer on the Catholic teachings of sexuality and bioethics, Smith teaches an online class at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, where she also serves as the Father Michael McGivney Chair of Life Ethics. At the World Meeting, she attended a book signing of her new volume, *Living the Truth in Love: Pastoral Approaches to Same-Sex Attractions* (Ignatius Press, 2015).

"This is the issue for the Catholic Church," Smith said.

Family Life Director Christine Hess and Youth and Young Adult Ministry program coordinator Kathleen Peterson attended many World Meeting of Families sessions. They came away—like so many—with a reinvigorated view of their ministries.

I especially appreciated the joy on the faces of so many youth who were willing to spend many hours waiting to see the pope, even just for a few seconds.

"I was shaking when he went by," said Andrea McCormick, a junior at Villa Maria Academy, Erie. "He looked so happy; he was shining."

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*. Email: [msolberg@ErieRCD.org](mailto:msolberg@ErieRCD.org) Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERIECDsolberg

**Fire damages Emmaus Soup Kitchen**

*Pope's message of mercy extends to alleged arsonist*

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Pope Francis' message of mercy and compassion hit close to home Sept. 25 for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and their ministry at Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

A fire allegedly set by a guest of the soup kitchen caused significant damage to the structure, located at 218 E. 11th St., Erie, and displaced the three sisters who live there.

"When the police came, our message to them was that he (the guest) is a member of our family and we hope he gets some help," said Benedictine Sister Mary Miller, director of Emmaus Ministries.

At press time, Thomas Munch, 52, was being held at the Erie County Prison on charges of arson, causing a catastrophe and reckless endangerment. Bail was set at \$75,000.

The fire broke out the morning of Sept. 25 while two of the three sisters who live there were home. Sister Lucia Surmik saw smoke and alerted her sister, Sister Claire Surmik, 80, who was on the second floor. Both escaped without injury.

They currently are staying in living quarters at St. Benedict Child Development Center.

None of the sisters harbor ill feelings for Munch, who regularly came to the soup kitchen for meals served daily to the homeless and needy of the Erie area. The ministry serves about 250 dinners daily Monday through Friday.

"The pope's message is that of mercy and compassion to the people on the fringes of society and that's who we serve. This came on the heels of the pope's visit (to the United States) and his message was right before our eyes," Sister Mary said.

Efforts are underway to clean and repair the soup kitchen, which sustained damage to its bathrooms and part of the dining area. Fire did not spread to the cooking area and did not affect any food. Most of the damage was confined to the sisters' upstairs quarters.

Sister Mary extended heartfelt thanks to City of Erie firefighters, as well as to the Erie City Mission and the Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity which opened their doors to serve food on a temporary basis. The soup kitchen re-opened Oct. 5, but in a smaller space.

With about seven fewer tables and a smaller dining area, Sister Mary is concerned about having enough room for the hundreds of people who come to the soup kitchen for meals. And the coming cold weather likely won't help the situation.

"It will be extremely difficult for our guests, those in wheelchairs and families," she said.

Meanwhile, generous donations of volunteer time and money are pouring in, including from Bishop Lawrence Persico. For that, Sister Mary is grateful.

"I'm touched by the community's outpouring of help," she said.

Although Emmaus did have insurance, many needs remain in order for the ministry to return to normal operations. The public is invited to go to [www.emmauserie.org](http://www.emmauserie.org) for updates or to make a financial contribution.



Photo courtesy of Emmaus Ministries

Flames engulfed part of the Emmaus Soup Kitchen in Erie Sept. 25 allegedly at the hands of an Emmaus guest.

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**Diplomacy to be explored at lecture**

HARBORCREEK—Medea Benjamin, co-founder of the international human rights organization Global Exchange, will speak at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Harborcreek, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Her talk is titled, "Diplomacy Works: Iran Nuclear Deal and New Opportunities for Resolving Conflicts Nonviolently." She will be available for discussion after her presentation.

**Couple to Couple League offers online class**

CINCINNATI—The Couple to Couple League—a Catholic, non-profit organization—has launched a new online class that brings Natural Family Planning (NFP) instruction to engaged and married couples on demand. The course is delivered in a series of video and interactive learning modules. The new self-paced online class is now part of CCL's three course lineup that offers different ways to learn NFP that accommodate not only a wide range of locations, but a variety of learners. It fills a void for those areas in the U.S. that have a lack of NFP teachers. All of CCL's course options include a full course of instruction, consultation and follow-up, and subscriptions to CCL's Family Foundations magazine and the mobile charting app CycleProGo®. The new online class has a special introductory fee of \$99 (normally \$110), and the two live class options have been reduced in price to \$130. Diocesan personnel who want to learn more may contact Erick Carro, director of diocesan outreach, at [ecarro@cccl.org](mailto:ecarro@cccl.org) or at 800-745-8252, ext. 1034.



**Continuing Education Day explores strengths**

ERIE—All are welcome to attend a Religious Education Continuing Education Day, titled "Living Your Strengths." Peggy Williams, a trained facilitator from Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Harborcreek, will use this program to help participants discover and develop their personal strengths, as well as to apply them to their ministries. To register, go to <https://secure.jotform.us/form/52585943882167>. The locations and dates available are:

- Nov. 10 at St. Joseph, Force
- Nov. 11 at Beloved Disciple, Grove City
- Nov. 12 at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie

**St. Peter Cathedral to host holy year program**

ERIE—In anticipation of the Holy Year of Mercy, St. Peter Cathedral in Erie will offer an opportunity to explore the Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus*, on Oct. 10 and 24 and Nov. 14, each day from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Synod Hall. Presentations will be given each night about the papal bull, followed by prayer and reflection. Light refreshments will follow. Presenters include Kate Whiteford (Oct. 10), Deacon Jeff Swanson (Oct. 24), and Deacon Ray Sobina (Nov. 14).

**Father DeMartinis offers Bible study**

ERIE—Father Mike DeMartinis, parochial administrator of Mount Calvary Parish, Erie, is offering a weekly 90-minute Bible study on Wednesday evenings beginning Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. Covering the Gospel of Luke through the Acts of the Apostles, the study will be held in Cathedral Prep's H. David Bowes auditorium. Questions? Contact Father DeMartinis at 814-454-0061. Registration is not necessary, but a revised standard edition of the Bible is required.

**Have you taken a look at your spiritual growth?**

ELDRED—A Reflection Afternoon for Women will be held Oct. 18 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Coleman Parish Center of St. Raphael Church, Eldred. Join other seekers for the opportunity to discover and affirm who you really are in God's sight. Reservations are due no later than Oct. 15 by contacting Margaret French at 814-945-6245, or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, at 814-544-8017 or [sisterphy@gmail.com](mailto:sisterphy@gmail.com). The program is sponsored by the Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry, with Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, OSB, as the presenter.

**Parish mission scheduled in West Middlesex**

WEST MIDDLESEX—A parish mission will be held at Good Shepherd Parish in West Middlesex Oct. 25-27 at 7 p.m. each night. Adults as well as children in grades 3 and up are welcome. Franciscan Father Francis Pompei of Buffalo will lead the mission, addressing the following topics:

- Sunday: "How Not to Live"
- Monday: "How to Think"
- Tuesday: "Letting Go: Healed + Delivered." A healing service will be conducted, and a fellowship social will be held in the parish hall afterward.

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**Papal events fulfill family's dream**

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Back in 1979, Maggie Santiago and her mother and brother just missed seeing Pope John Paul II in Washington, D.C. She was only 4 years old at the time, but Maggie remembers her mother's disappointment when they got lost in traffic. So when Maggie heard that Pope Francis was coming to the United States this year—and that there would be a bus pilgrimage from the Diocese of Erie—she wasn't about to miss another opportunity to see a pope and fulfill her mother's dream. "My mother passed away over a year ago, so when this came up, I said, 'I'm going and I'm taking my kids!'" says Maggie, now 42. On Sept. 24, Maggie and four of her five children made the trek to Philadelphia. More than a million others who gathered for the papal Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, they got up early Sept. 27 to stake out a spot in the first section from the altar, about three blocks from Pope Francis. "The pope was very tiny up

there, but we could see him," Maggie says. Maggie and three of her four boys and her daughter, all members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Lawrence Park, attended the World Meeting of Families festival on Sept. 26 and the papal Mass on Sept. 27. Sons Ben, 14, Andrew, 12, and Samuel, 10, and daughter, Theresa, 22, got a good look at the pope both days. "When we were waiting for like nine hours, the boys started making friends with people around us," Maggie says. For Andrew, a seventh-grader at Iroquois Junior High School, it seemed as if he made eye contact with the pope as he headed down the parkway. "I thought it was cool that I could see him and I was pretty close to him," Andrew says. "The Mass was pretty cool because the pope did it." For Maggie, attending a papal Mass and receiving Communion consecrated by the Holy Father was the highlight of the trip. What's more, she believes her mother, Mercedes Santiago, was somehow present those



Contributed photo

Maggie Santiago, center, was happy to have her children with her at the papal events in Philadelphia. Pictured with her, from left, are four of her five children: Benjamin, Andrew, Samuel and Theresa.

two days. Everywhere the family walked in Philadelphia, they saw three-wheel Schwinn bicycles. "My mom had a three-wheel bike that she was well-known for," Maggie says. "I just knew that she was pleased and that she was there." Trained by Jesuit priests, Mercedes Santiago would have loved Pope Francis if Alzheimer's had not kept her from understanding his impact. "He is everything she would have ever wanted in a pope," Maggie says. "My mom would have told every person on earth that her daughter and grandchildren saw the pope."

OBITUARIES

**Msgr. Robert G. Barcio**

**Diocesan archivist and author dies at 94**



Msgr. Robert G. Barcio

ERIE—Msgr. Robert G. Barcio, 94, died Sept. 30 at Saint Mary's Home, East. He was in his 67th year as a priest of the Diocese of Erie. Msgr. Barcio was born in Erie, July 5, 1921, the son of the late Bert T. and Helen (Fusz) Barcio. After attending Sacred Heart and Cathedral Preparatory schools, he had his seminary formation at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Gannon University in Erie, and St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Md., where he received his bachelor's degree. He later also earned a master's degree and a doctorate in history at

Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Bishop John Mark Gannon ordained him a priest of the diocese on May 15, 1947, at St. Peter Cathedral. Msgr. Barcio began his priestly ministry as parochial vicar of Holy Rosary Parish in Erie. He was appointed to teach at Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, in 1952, serving there until 1956. During that time, he was weekend sacramental assistant at Blessed Sacrament, St. Jude and St. Luke parishes, all in Erie. In 1956, Msgr. Barcio was appointed to teach history at Gannon, where he remained until 1974. He was named chairman of the History Department in 1966. In 1975, Msgr. Barcio was appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield, where he served until 1985 when he was appointed pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist

Parish in Erie. In 1986, he left St. Mark Parish to become the diocesan historian and archivist, a post he held until 2010. During his tenure as historian and archivist, he authored three volumes of diocesan history, as well as a pictorial history of the Diocese of Erie. Also, he co-authored *Education on the Square*, a history of Gannon University. He retired in 1993 but continued to celebrate daily Mass for parishioners at St. Peter Cathedral, where he lived until 2013. In 2013, he moved to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie. A funeral Mass was held at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, with Bishop Lawrence Persico as the main celebrant. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery. Condolences to the family may be sent to [www.kloeckerfuneralhome.com](http://www.kloeckerfuneralhome.com).

**Father Charles D. Skinner**

**Priest, educator served during WWII**



Father Charles D. Skinner

HERMITAGE—Father Charles D. Skinner, 89, died Sept. 16 at St. John XXIII Home in Hermitage. He was in his 62nd year of priesthood. Father Skinner was born Dec. 26, 1925, in New Bethlehem, Pa., a son of the late Jared and Alberta (Akins) Skinner. After attending New Bethlehem public schools, he attended St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees while in formation for the priesthood. He later earned a master's degree in history at the University of Pittsburgh and did doctoral work at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. His education was interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942. He served in the Pacific Theater until 1945 and was discharged from the Army in 1946. Bishop Edward McManaman ordained him

a priest for the Diocese of Erie on May 14, 1953, at St. Peter Cathedral. Father Skinner began his priestly ministry as parochial vicar at St. Mark Parish in Emporium, but was appointed to teach at Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie just three months later. He served at the school for 15 years, many of which were spent as assistant headmaster. In 1968, he was appointed pastor of St. Teresa Parish in Union City, where he served until 1975. Father Skinner was then appointed pastor of St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, where he served until his retirement in 1993.

He spent his first year of retirement at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Sharon, and in 1994 moved to St. John XXIII Home in Hermitage, where he continued to serve the parishioners of St. Anthony Church, Sharon, and St. Adalbert Church, Farrell, as a weekend assistant. Survivors include a brother, Jerry Skinner, and his wife, Val, of New Bethlehem; three sisters, Gladys Travis of Slippery Rock, Pa.; Mary Belle Bordone of Virginia Beach, Va.; and Lorraine Allori and her husband, Nello, of Newark, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews. A vigil service was held at St. John XXIII Home, and a funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony Church with Bishop Emeritus Donald W. Trautman as celebrant. Burial was at St. Charles Cemetery, New Bethlehem.

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# People of Erie Diocese



## join papal festivities

### Families affirmed at papal events and World Meeting of Families festival



The Stark family of Erie enjoyed their trip to Washington and Philadelphia for the U.S. papal visit. They are standing outside St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Philadelphia, waiting for a Mass to begin for people of the Diocese of Erie. Pictured, from left, are: Beata and Bud Stark, and three of their children, Francis, John Paul and Mary Claire.

### Erie brothers help set world record



Twelve-year-old Benjamin Sipple and nine-year-old Evan Sipple watch their brother Paul, 11, paint a section of a paint-by-numbers mural that made the Guinness Book of World Records during the World Meeting of Families.

### Seminarians hit the road



Thirteen seminarians from St. Mark Seminary attended the canonization Mass of Junipero Serra in Washington, D.C. Pictured en route by bus are: Sister Mary Andrew Himes, RSM, and seminarians, clockwise: Waylon Duncan, Michael Awungkeng, Adrian Fritze, Patrick Stycharz, Joseph Tokasz and Kevin Holland.

### Lunch is served



Lunch was served to more than 200 people from the Diocese of Erie Sept. 26 on the street outside of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Philadelphia. In the foreground are Christine Grana, Tom Grana, Holly Coulter and William Power.

### 17,000 attend World Meeting of Families events



Bishop Lawrence Persico, front, and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman were among hundreds of clergy who participated in a Mass opening the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on Sept. 22.

### Father Jabo among throngs of people on the parkway



Father Scott Jabo, president of the Erie Catholic Preparatory School, finds himself peering over the crowds that gathered on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia during Pope Francis' visit. Father Jabo was among several chaperones on the weekend trip and also concelebrated at the papal Mass Sept. 27.

### Elk County Catholic students help homeless



These Elk County Catholic High School students gave out socks and gloves and other items to the homeless of Philadelphia as part of their pilgrimage to the city for papal events. Pictured, from left, are: Grace Bobby, Catherine Ceroni, Ellie Flynn and Rena Messineo.

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### Looking to seek a closer relationship with God and ignite the spirit within you?

St. Teresa of Avila and Our Lady of Fatima invite you to an **October Mission/Retreat open to all!**

Sunday, October 18 through Wednesday, October 21  
9 Third Ave., Union City

Sessions begin 7:00 pm and conclude 8:30 pm.  
Social and fellowship after Wednesdays session.



Topics: To Be Born Again, Healing of Jesus, The Call to Be Church and Our Response to the Call.

Rev. Michael P. Sullivan from Villanova, PA Presenter of the mission and preacher at all weekend Masses. (Oct. 17-18). For transportation needs or more info, call 814-438-3408 or 814-438-2000, visit Rev. Michael's website: [www.augustinian.org/preaching-ministries](http://www.augustinian.org/preaching-ministries), or St. Teresa's website: [www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://www.st-teresa-unioncity.org)